It will be recalled that the Prime Minister as Minister for External Affairs in the Janata Government of 1977—79 had taken a personal and active interest in the normalisation of relations with China. It was at his initiative that the first understanding regarding maintenance of peace and tranquillity along the India-China border was reached. The Agreement on Maintenance of Peace and tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas was signed in September 1993 during the visit of the then Prime Minister, Shri Narasimha Rao.

The process of exchanges at the highest political level recommenced with former Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi's visit to China in 1998. The process of improving relations and resolving outstanding issues has continued since then, through high-level exchanges and official talks. In November 1996, during China's President Jiang Zemin's visit to India, the Agreement on Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas was signed.

Government are aware of the long-standing defence co-operation relationship between China and Pakistan, including also supply of materials, equipment and technology. The role of external assistance in Pakistan's nuclear weaponisation and missile development programme is well known. Our concerns have been made known to the Chinese side, including at the highest level. Most recently these concerns were reiterated to the Chinese side during the visit of Chief of General Staff of the People's Liberation Army, General Fu Quanyou, to India from April 26-May 1, 1998. We see our relationship as one in which the two sides would be responsive to each other's concerns. We remain committed to the process of dialogue to resolve outstanding differences.

Border disputes with China

*131. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to resolve border dispute with China, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE):

(a) and (b) During the visit of the then Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, to China in December 1988 India and China agreed to seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question through peaceful and friendly consultations. The India-China Joint Working Group on the boundary question was set up to discuss the boundary-related issues and to ensure maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the border areas.

In September 1993, during the visit of the then Prime Minister, Shri Narasimha Rao, to China, the two sides signed the Agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas. In Article I of the Agreement, the two sides agreed that the India-China boundary question shall be resolved through peaceful and friendly consultations. Article VIII of the Agreement provides for the setting up of an Expert Group to assist the Joint Working Group on various aspects of the Boundary question and maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the border areas. In November 1996, during the visit of China's President, Jiang Zemin, the Agreement on Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas was signed. In the agreement, the two sides agreed to speed up the process of clarification and confirmation of the line of

actual control in order to arrive at a common understanding and facilitate implementation of the provisions of the Agreement. These two Agreements contribute to maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the border areas.

India and China are committed to work towards a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question. Both countries are discussing the boundary question in the framework of the India-China Joint Working Group and India-China Expert Group. The Joint Working Group has met ten times so far, the last meeting being held in New Delhi in August 1997, while the Expert Group has met five times, the last meeting being held in New Delhi in March 1997.

Acquisition of Missile Technology by Pakistan

*132. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the Hindustan Times, dated the 8th April, 1998, to the effect that Pakistan has successfully tested a medium range surface to surface missile, 'GHAURI' which could target New Delhi and other Indian cities; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken, so far, to meet any threat to India's national security and find out how Pakistan has acquired missile technology which is against Missile Technology Control Regime?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) Yes sir. Government have seen press reports about the officially claimed test firing of an intermediate range missile by Pakistan.

(b) Government closely monitors all developments including those relating to Pakistan's missile programme. We are fully aware of consistent outside support to Pakistan in this field despite the existence of multilateral export control regimes, unilateral declarations of restraint and supply restrictions in supplier countries. Government remains fully committed to taking all necessary steps to effectively safeguard India's security and national interests.

Payment of Share Cost of Sardar Sarovar Project

*133. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the decision taken by the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal regarding payment of share cost of the Sardar Sarovar Project by the participating States:

(b) the details of the share cost of Sardar Sarovar Project to be paid to Gujarat by the participating States;

(c) the amount paid till date, State-wise;

(d) the amount remained unpaid, State-wise;

(e) the steps taken by Government to realise the arrears from the defaulting States; and

(f) the time by which the full amount will be paid to Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (f) As per Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal Award (1979), the capital cost of the power component of Sardar Sarovar Project is to be shared by the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat in the ratio of 57:27:16. The cost of irrigation component of the project is to be shared between the State Governments of Gujarat and Rajasthan in the ratio of 18:1.

Details of share cost of the project to be paid to Gujarat by other participating States upto March 1998 are as under: